



ROSE BREEDERS' FORUM

Volume 2 Number 3 – Winter 2018

Editor: Richard Walsh

We get excited almost all year round for one reason or another. Every season brings its special issues and the issue for the current season is watching the new seedlings germinate and caring for them, while planning next seasons crosses, as last year's have their final fling and we see the things we would like to change or develop in them.

In this edition, we have some more interesting articles from readers. It gives me a great deal of pleasure to bring others' thoughts and experiences to the *Forum*. Thank you Bob Warren, Laurel Somerfield, Stewart Pedley and Gary Wootton for the excellent material provided for everyone's information. Thanks also to those members who gave me some feedback on the digital copy of *NSW Rose*. This information will be helpful to the editor and State Council as they work towards the future.

In this edition there will also be feature articles on Breeding HT's, another Breeding Line of ours, another rose we have had significant success with in our breeding and breeding for Unusual Colours. Classification remains a sticky issue and I look forward to presenting a re-print of Peter Cox's contribution to the Symposium in the 1996 *Australian Rose Annual*. His thoughts are quite prophetic and timely.

I hope each reader finds something of interest and benefit in the following pages. I am hoping to get some feedback on the issue of Heat Tolerance in the next issue. How important is it for you in your breeding? Send in your questions as well as your comments for the next edition, deadline August 15.

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Feedback

Bob Warren writes - (email March 9)

Good Afternoon Richard,

Thank you for forwarding the rose breeding stuff, very good.

For some years I have been raising the matter of roses coming into the country and being offered with different names to the original registered rose record in online Modern Roses 12 Data Base. I have raised this matter with several different Rose Society officials but not one seems to care about this matter.

The last one is I believe to be an absolute disgrace considering the story behind the rose.(See attached).

Would you care to comment on this matter.

Robert.

Rose **Simply Samantha**

Modern Roses 12 Data Base indicates that this rose Code Name 'KORsamsi' - Approved Exhibition Name **Simply Samantha** was Introduced by Ludwigs's Roses, in 2008.

Ludwig's Roses Catalogue Description of **Simply Samantha** – Code name KORsamasi – In memory of the untimely death of a daughter and sister. Then follows the rose description.

Helpmefind Roses Information

- KO 97/1537-06
- KORsamasi
- Unconventional Lady

Bred by W.Kordes & Sons (Germany,1997)

Introduced In South Africa by Ludwig's Roses in 2008 as '**Simply Samantha**'

Introduced in Australia by Treloar Roses Pty Ltd. In 2017 as '**Unconventional Lady**'

7-3-2008 - Robert Warren sent an email to Ludwig's Roses enquiring about the "In memory of the untimely death of a daughter and sister" and also the correct Code name of the Rose different in Modern Rose Data Base.

The reply from Ludwig Taschner on the 8th March was as follows:-

The Family of Hymie Brest hymie.brest@challenger.co.za commissioned us to name a suitable rose Sammy and eventually we agreed on 'Simply Samantha'. We had the rose from Kordes in our trials with the Breeders code number 97/ indicating that it was a seedling from 1997.

We received a Certificate of grant of Plant Breeder's Right Number 20104329 on 28-1-2010 for the rose cultivar KORsamasi^N

Signed Ludwig.

Two matters arise from this research:-

1.The Code name in Modern Roses is different from the one emailed response from Ludwig.

2. The name of the Rose has been changed from a rose commissioned by Ludwig's to commemorate the passing of the daughter and sister of the Brest family to 'Unconventional Lady'.

Three Nurseries are offering this rose in their 2018 catalogues, Swanes, Treloars and Wagners.

Editor's reply: The whole issue of the naming of roses has to do with the ARS...there is one one registered name, when you look on MR, and for the rose you mention...Korsamsi. The other name(s) are what is/are called fancy names and there may be more than one. That also exists within Australia. For example, I originally registered a rose as 'Walamelia' and its ARS Approved Exhibition Name is **Amelia**. It was never put into commerce under that name so was available for the RSNSW to select as its Centenary Signature Rose and was then marketed under the synonym '100 Not Out'. Now the event is over, it may be marketed under the original name...but it is pink (not popular), although it remains a very good variety.

What REALLY offends me is that re-birthed, foreign imported roses are marketed in Australia for OUR events and OUR icons. 'Unconventional Lady' is one such but there are others...see Paul Hains' introduction to the Symposium on Australian Bred Roses on page 89 of the 2017 *Australian Rose Annual*. The imposters include 'Peter Brock', 'Ian Thorpe', 'Daniel Morcombe', 'Australian Centenary of Federation' and especially 'Gallipoli Centenary Rose'. SURELY there are suitable quality Australian bred roses that could have been used for such significant people and events. Unfortunately the big Australian nurseries do not seem to champion them, but hopefully that will change.

I understand your concerns in general and will use what you have written in the next issue of *Rose Breeders' Forum* to bring it again to the attention of the breeders and hope they will be aware. We do not have the power to do more.

Regards
Richard

Further, legally they can change the name under which it is released...I remember when Rumsey's were releasing **Red Cedar**. Kordes had named it 'Burgund '81', but Rumseys still sold the previous **Burgund**. Kordes' advice was to call it by a name which might be meaningful in our market, so it became **Red Cedar**. Its name overseas is mainly 'Loving Memory'. However its unique registered name is 'Korgund '81', with 'Burgund '81' and 'Red Cedar' being synonyms for the ARS Approved Exhibition Name of **Loving Memory**. The AEN only really applies to the US and means if you exhibit it there it MUST be under that name.

Certainly Kordes would be aware of the name change. The agent would have sought approval before it could be marketed under a new name. The differences in code name would be a typo...I would go with MR...Richard

Stewart Pedley writes – (email March 7)

Hi Richard

I have attached two pics of my first and only successful cross after many attempts.

The pollen was collected from **Pope John Paul II** and placed on **Ingrid Bergman**-named by one of my offspring "Holy Ingrid". The underside of the petals are a pale pink and you can see for yourself the yellow centre and off red pink fleck- colour of the top of the petals. This was far more noticeable when the bud was still tight. There was only one-albeit large-seed in the hep.



I am very proud of this rose.

My query is still centred on pollen collection. I have spoken with many who assure me it is a simple process, but I have tried collecting when the bud is still tight, right through to fully open...from early morning till night and in between. I have never been able to collect that yellow powdery pollen that everybody refers to. The stamens simply give the appearance of being dry within 24 hours although I store them away from bright light, and no powder is seen in the jar.



The rose attached was done by placing what I thought were dried stamens onto the stigma of **Ingrid Bergman**. Is the pollen from all roses easy to collect? If not, would you please give me some ideas as to some I should tackle for collection.

I don't know of anybody in Perth who

crosses roses-maybe you can direct me to them? Frustration is getting to me.

Love your ongoing articles
Best wishes to you
Stewart P

Editor's reply: Thanks for the feedback Stewart

Some roses do not set seed readily, some do not appear to make much pollen. It is all trial and error. What roses do you grow? I can suggest some that produce a lot of pollen and I can report that my early attempts were unsuccessful...it took two years to achieve my first seedlings (some OP's only in the first year). You could experiment with pollen only in the non-hybridising part of the year to be ready for next year (and autumn is fine to do this). From the list of roses you sent, we have had success with **Gold Bunny**, **Seduction** and **Gold Medal** while **Peace** and **Dr Verhage** have many offspring, so start with them and build. It has to do with learning, experience and gaining confidence in your own judgement.

Your plants look healthy and have interesting blooms, so don't be disappointed that the outcomes were not huge this year. You are rightly proud of the result. With only one seed in the hip, you have done well to get it to germinate. We generally expect about 40% germination. I love the name!

I have used the "dried stamens" trick with low fertility roses like **Imp** successfully. I have not found **Pope John** easy to work with and have had no success with him...he appears to be celibate for me. I celebrate your beginnings with you! Congratulations, your first seedling will always be special.

Regards
Richard

Laurel Somerfield Writes - Email March 28

Hello Richard,

Due notice that I have renewed membership of NSW Rose Soc. It is a great move to have joined this Society and more specifically have access to the Breeders' Assoc.

There are some new beauties in my garden and they are giving me great pleasure. I am going into this for perfume and so far I happily sniff away at each new bloom. I asked my son to identify “notes” of the perfumes, thinking he had a good nose. He came up with “Turkish Delight” and “Pure Rose”!!! It was scarcely what I had in mind. **Ice Girl** has a distinct lemony scent so I am trying to work on her now. **Nahema** has given me some good perfume as has **The Children’s Rose** and **The Wedding Rose** but their perfume genes are a bit more elusive. Oh for a red version of those roses to add to the other sensational reds.

I love reading your articles and am constantly amazed at Ruth’s and your output. Good health and stamina to you both.

Regards, Laurel Sommerfeld

Editor’s reply: Thanks Laurel.

Ruth and I are enjoying the experience and meeting other like-minded people through the *Forum*. There are some roses that seem to reliably produce fragrant offspring, like **Blue for You**, but we have found fragrance IS elusive and appears in general to be a recessive gene. Sometimes two fragrant parents produce a non-fragrant baby and at other times two non-fragrant parents produce an intensely fragrant seedling.

Keep up the work and it is good you have such clear goals.

Regards
Richard

Seeds Outside the Hip (Part 2) – Gary Wooton

This is a follow on from the first article by the same name, the American Rose Hybridizers Association call this phenomenon, “Exogenous Seeds”, meaning “growing or originating from outside an organism”, and ran an article in their American Rose Hybridizers Association Newsletter Vol. XLVI No. 3/4 2015, titled “What to Do About Exogenous Seeds”; it contained a number of posts from readers, about this subject. I like to call this phenomenon “External Seeds”.

A little rehash of the first article on this phenomenon, started in the following manner; I had just conducted my first, for this year, cross pollination; the two

roses I have chosen are **The Golden Child** and **Peace** as the hip has started to form on both of the roses, I noticed that the seeds seem to be forming externally, I wondered is there any rhyme or reason for this occurring and will this phenomenon affect my crosses?



In some of the roses the external seed is more prominent, as is shown. The left hand hip is not as dramatic as the right hand hip. The hip on the left is 'The Golden Child' and the hip on the right is 'Peace'



It is interesting that **Peace** was pollinated with **The Golden Child**, but **The Golden Child** was pollinated with another rose. [Note 1: On all occasions that I have seen, only a small number of each rose shows signs of this phenomenon occurring, not the whole plant. **Peace** has a ratio of about 50% of the hips affected, whilst **The Golden Child** has a much smaller occurrence. Initially, interestingly, this phenomenon occurred on both cross pollinated and open pollinated hips.] [Note 2: I initially thought seeds are pushed outside the hip at the commencement of the hip's development; this was the case for approximately the first 12 weeks, but as the hip continued to develop, more seeds were forced externally as they continue to grow and some are forced out side of the hip as each seed increases in size.]

Let's look at how things went as I moved through the next stage of the rose breeding cycle. I will look at the progress of each rose that has been touched with the "External Seeds", phenomenon. As well as looking at both the hips that were cross pollinated and those that were open pollinated, (if left for open pollination). The following are the roses I have used for this research and the findings attached to them. The following roses were selected for no other reason, except they were growing in my garden, or close to me, and are stated to that affect.

Peace:

Peace was only cross pollinated with the **The Golden Child**; the hips on this bush were affected by less than 50% having the "External Seeds",

phenomenon. Whilst all the hips were cross pollinated from the same donor rose not all hips showed signs of developing the seeds externally of the hip.

Description:

Peace has large, cupped flowers with a high-centred form and an average diameter of 15 cm. The durable flowers are very full, with 40 to 43 petals. The vigorous shrub grows 120 to 200 cm high and 90 to 125 cm wide.

Statistical Information:

All records were taken up to and including the stratification stage of the breeding cycle, with a hip that has grown on the above mother bush; this test produced 15 seeds from the hip. I thought it advisable to test them for fertility as follows: drop each seed into a container of water. Those that sink should be the viable ones. It is good to ensure that there is no extraneous flesh or bubbles adhering to the floating seed, as this can give a false reading. The floaters can be eventually planted, of course, if there is room in the seed bed, but it is a good idea to separate them so that an accurate percentage check can be taken on the ones that germinate. *[Note: as is my normal practice, I always jettison all the floaters].*

This test also produced 8 external seeds from the hip. I also tested them for fertility, as detailed above; of the 8 seeds, 4 floated and were therefore discarded.

The normal stratification procedures, as detailed in the 'Rose Breeders' Forum', was employed and the seeds placed into the refrigerator. *[Note: Being new to the breeding fraternity, I am not sure if the following is a characteristic of **Peace**, but I found a compacted fleshy extrusion in the centre of the hip, which by the look of it, it could have been the cause of the seeds being forced externally].*

The Golden Child:

The Golden Child: the hips on this bush were both, cross pollinated and were left for open pollination; the cross pollination was with **Victoria Gold**. The hips on this bush were less affected, with only about 5% having the "External Seeds", phenomenon. *[This figure increased slightly during the growing period, which would indicate that the seeds may be, pushed outwards throughout the growing cycle.]*

Description:

Medium, floribunda form and an average diameter of 8 cm. The durable flowers are full, with 26 to 40 petals, borne mostly solitarily, in small clusters. The vigorous shrub grows 120 to 150 cm high and 170 to 200 cm wide.

Statistical Information Cross Pollenated:

All records were taken up to and including the stratification stage of the breeding cycle, on hips that were cross breed, on the above mother bush, this test produced 31 internal seeds from the hip. I thought it advisable to test them for fertility, as detailed in the Statistical Information of **Peace**, above; of the 31 seeds, 6 floated and were discarded.

This test also produced 8 external seeds from the hip. I also tested them for fertility, as detailed above; of the 8 seeds, only 1 floated and was therefore discarded.

The normal stratification procedures, as detailed in the 'Rose Breeders' Forum', was employed and the seeds placed into the refrigerator.

Statistical Information Open Pollenated:

All records were taken up to and including the stratification stage of the breeding cycle, on hips that were open pollenated, on the above mother bush, this test produced 33 internal seeds from the hip. I thought it advisable to test them for fertility, as detailed in the Statistical Information of **Peace**, above; of the 33 seeds, 5 floated and were discarded.

This test also produced 14 external seeds from the hip. I also tested them for fertility, as detailed above; of the 14 seeds, only 3 floated and were therefore discarded.

The normal stratification procedures, as detailed in the 'Rose Breeders' Forum', was employed and the seeds placed into the refrigerator.

Joyce Abounding:

Joyce Abounding: the hips on this bush were cross pollinated only, but a test number were later left for open pollination. The cross pollination was with **The Golden Child**. [Note: ***The Golden Child** was the donor rose for this year's cross pollination and all crosses were taken from this donor and then crossed back to the donor, in most cases.*]

The hips on this bush were less affected, with none of the crossed hips, having the “External Seeds”, phenomenon. The hips that were left for open pollination showed no signs of developing the “External Seeds”, phenomenon.

Initially, it was not my intention to allow “Joyce Abounding” to go to open pollination, however for the purpose of this research and for impartiality, I relented and allowed open pollination to occur.

My research indicated that even the largest of the hips within the test area, either, cross pollinated or open pollinated, failed to develop any external seeds.

Description:

Joyce Abounding is a Miniflora, Miniature, and an average diameter of 5cm. The flowers are very full, with 26 to 40 petals, in small clusters bloom form. The shrub grows to a height of up to 50 cm, 90 to 125 cm wide.

Statistical Information:

All records were taken up to and including the stratification stage of the breeding cycle, with a hip that has grown on the above mother bush; this test produced 34 seeds from the hip. I thought it advisable to test them for fertility, as detailed in the Statistical Information of **Peace**, above; of the 34 seeds, 10 floated and were discarded.

The normal stratification procedures, as detailed in the ‘Rose Breeders’ Forum’, was employed and the seeds placed into the refrigerator.

Iceberg:

As I do not have an **Iceberg** in my collection, the bushes I conducted my research on was from a neighbours garden; although outside the controlled environment of my backyard, my research showed that even the largest of the hips within the test area failed to develop any external seeds. The roses I conducted my research on were open pollinated only, and displayed no signs of the “External Seeds”, phenomenon.

Description:

Iceberg is a modern cluster-flowered floribunda rose cultivar, and blooms are about 5 cm in diameter and have 25 to 35 petals. They grow in clusters on long stems. Buds are long and pointed. The vigorous shrub grows 1.2 metres high and 1 metre wide.

Statistical Information:

All records were taken on plants that were not in my garden and therefore out of my control; however, I did note that it did not matter how big each hip became [*the hips were of varying sizes*], none of them displayed any signs of the “External Seeds”, phenomenon.

External Source:

I was also given a copy of the following from Richard Walsh, from his experiences with a rose by the name of **Olde Fragrance** and the “External Seeds”, phenomenon. [*Thank you Richard.*]

Olde Fragrance:

I do not have an **Olde Fragrance** in my collection, but was given the information for my research by Richard Walsh from his garden and experience with this rose. The following is, in part, what Richard sent to me.

I can't remember if ALL hips displayed External Seeds, but certainly the ones in question did, and if not all seeds, then the majority.

The hips were pollinated with **Playboy**, to look at contrasting colours, flower types and countries of origin, a German and a Scottish rose, a very full HT and an almost single Floribunda, a basic pink and a yellow/orange blend. I can't recall allowing any open pollinated hips to develop, so can't comment on that.

Description:

Medium, cupped flowers with a high-centred form and an average diameter of 14 cm. The durable flowers are very full, with 26 to 40 petals. The vigorous shrub grows 150cm high and 120 cm wide.

Separate Testing:

During testing for another article, called, “After Harvest Ripening” [*which will be coming to a “Rose Breeders’ Forum”, soon*], I produced hips, also from **The Golden Child**, having the “External Seeds”, phenomenon; interestingly, the hips were sitting and growing, upside down in a medium of dampened peatmoss. These hips had been removed from the mother plant and sitting upside down within the peatmoss medium for some, 45 days. These hips were all open pollinated.

Conclusion:

My conclusion is not scientifically supported, nor is it academically supported, and the following are the findings that have been achieved by watching, measuring and taking notes and most importantly, watching the roses grow through each of the breeding cycle.

1. The phenomenon, of seeds forming outside the hip has neither rhyme nor reason for its occurrence.
2. It seems, that this phenomenon, whilst it may affect a number of hips on a plant, rarely affect all the hips contained on the plant.
3. As mentioned earlier, I initially thought, seeds are pushed outside of the hip at the commencement of the hips development, this was the case for approximately the first 12 weeks, but as the hip continued to develop, more seeds were forced externally as they continue to grow and some are forced outside of the hip as each seed increases in size.
4. My findings, although, not scientifically supported, indicates that this phenomenon, is more likely to occur in varieties of roses that would normally produce physically larger seeds, and therefore larger hips. All the study subjects, *[which is not an all-encompassing amount, by any means]* that displayed signs of being effected by the “External Seeds”, phenomenon, were flowers that had physically larger flowers. *[My research did not prove that only roses that are physically larger, will be effected, but it does show that they are more likely to be effected by this phenomenon.]*
5. Some views from the American Rose Hybridizers that support my findings, on this subject:
 - a. from one of America’s consulting Master Rosarian from the Rocky Mountains Region USA with over 40 years of experience growing roses. He said that some of the big seed producers force some of the seeds to the outside; he was delighted to say that I must have good seed producers on my hands, and that when the seeds start coming out the top of the rose hips, it is because they are simply producing more seeds than the little hip can contain inside. This is a very good thing in terms of seed production.

- b. an article in the American Rose Hybridizers Association Newsletter Vol. XLVI No. 3/4 2015, "What to Do About External Seeds".

I always thought this was like stuffing 10 pounds of anything, into a 5-pound bag. For any rose that we grow, as far as I can recall the hips are about the same size regardless of the number of seeds in there. We never separated them or treated them any differently—just stratified them all and planted them. Never kept any stats to check to see if there is any difference. *[Note: that is what we are trying to achieve with this series of articles.]*

My conclusions, are only taken over the ripening stage and including the stratification stage of the rose breeding cycle, and the next issue on this phenomenon, will be detailed under the same heading, **SEEDS OUTSIDE THE HIP (Part Three)**, were I shall attempt to discover how this phenomenon, impacts on seed development, and if they are more likely to fail or succeed.

Seasonal Notes – Winter 2018

It is definitely not the time for pollinating (unless you live in the Northern Hemisphere). The plants are becoming dormant even if they never quite stop growing. There will always be the odd bloom here right through to pruning time and some roses, like **Mons Tillier** and **Pat Austin**, may be in the middle of a flush when pruning time comes. Our preferred time is late July to early August...too much later and the buds are starting to break and will then need to be cut off.



Most seeds will have been planted and now the waiting game begins for germination to start. Our biggest threat to the new seedlings is downy mildew and damping off (root rot). After reading Mark Massey's report on it in the last edition, it seems the best way to keep

it at bay is to make sure the foliage on the babies does not remain wet for long, so watering should be early to allow the small leaves to dry and be exposed to the sun. We still use Yates Anti Rot to help with resistance and snail pellets to protect them from snails and slugs. I cannot control temperature.

When the small seedlings have their “normal” leaves starting to grow, a weak solution of liquid fertiliser will help, or even a seaweed based one to support and strengthen.

Much has been written about pruning and I don't want to detract from the excellent cultural notes in the *NSW Rose*, but will add that to make the disposal of pruning material easier, turn it into mulch. We pile it up, feed it through the mulcher and lay it thickly on pathways between roses. When it breaks down, it makes great compost and is an excellent additive to potting mix or to dress the top of pots. I have heard negative comments about returning disease to the garden, but no more than your neighbour's roses do and we have not found it a problem. Our rationale is that the plant stores its food in the stems and leaves, so why throw all that good food away when you can recycle it and as it breaks down, improves the soil?



Brutus (our mulcher) turning a pile of prunings into nicely shredded mulch – trying to beat the storm here

Mr Peter Cox
reprint of his contribution to the Symposium on
Australian Raised Roses
Australian Rose Annual 1996 (page 68)

"In 1975, when I first decided to grow roses commercially, I bought around 50 stock plants, both hybrid tea and floribunda and amongst those plants were two Australian bred roses, both by Riethmuller of Sydney: the polyantha **Honeyflow** and floribunda **Titian**. We were at that time dairy farming at Narellan, NSW and it was not until 1979 that we moved to our nursery, which we were establishing at Thirlmere where we also grew miniature roses. In 1983 we commenced growing old garden roses and within two years had stopped growing miniature roses to concentrate on the old roses and eventually we cut out all the modern varieties except for the Australian bred varieties and climbers. Our collection of Alister Clark roses was quite extensive and by the time that Tom Garnett published his book, *Man of Roses*, in 1990 we had a collection of over 70 Australian roses including 24 by Alister Clark. Until our nursery closed down in 1994 we were the main supplier of Australian roses in NSW with roses from Fitzhardinge, Dawson, Riethmuller, Bell, Watson, Welsh, Sister Xavier, Hazelwood Bros. and Clark. Our Australian collection in the garden has around 90 varieties including those two original plants by Riethmuller.

The two varieties best remembered of the Australian roses were **Blackboy** and **Lorraine Lee**, as most visitors to the nursery remembered these two roses from childhood days, when a relative would have had them growing in the garden. There were good sales of the Australian varieties when in full bloom but without flowers there was little demand. A niece of **Marie Guthry** called at our nursery one day to buy a plant of the rose named after her Aunt by Alister Clark.

In 1993, Richard Walsh, then editor of the *NSW Rose* asked me write about the Australian Rose Breeders and their roses for publication in the Journal. This resulted in the description of around 190 roses produced by some 50 odd breeders and published over eight editions of the Journal. Many of those roses are lost to us today. Since then Dianne Ackland has produced her wonderful *Australian Rose Directory* listing 292 Australian roses (including sports of other roses such as climbing sports) inclusive of 60 Allister Clark varieties, also including sports that are commercially produced today.

From old nursery catalogues we now know that the first Australian roses were listed in 1845. These were two China hybrids named **Imogen** and **Perdita**

and produced by Mr Bidwell. These two roses are lost to us today, but the red and white Tea rose produced by John Williams of Queensland in 1906 and named **Penelope** is still grown today and is probably our oldest known Australian bred rose in production. A white sport of the Tea rose **Maman Cochet** was registered in 1896 by A. Marshall of Queensland with the climbing sport of **White Maman Cochet** being registered by Knight of NSW in 1907; both roses are still in production.

There are many Australian roses that are vastly superior to varieties imported from Europe and America and Alister Clark's **Rosa gigantea** hybrids must come within this group. But the opposite of this statement can also be applied to some Australian roses growing under certain conditions. For example, the deep crimson HT rose **Lubra** from Mrs Fitzhardinge of Warrawee in NSW in 1938 grows magnificently in South Australia, but is a poor performer in Victoria and NSW. This points to the need for the early establishment of a rose trial ground in each rose growing state of the Commonwealth to evaluate the performance of (and publicise) Australian bred roses."

[Editor's note. Peter was indeed a prophet, and although we now have trial gardens in two states there is still a long way to go. Peter has written two books, his first, *Australian Roses* published in 1999 and the second *Species Roses* published in 2016, with prints and descriptive text of the botanical paintings he did of some 113 Species Roses for the HRiA conference at Orange in 1995.]

Breeding Rose of Note – Route 66

We chose to use **Route 66** for several reasons as a breeding rose - the colour, the clusters, and the fact that it is descended from **R. soulieana**...oh,



and the fragrance incidentally, although not high on our list of priorities. It also appears to be a healthy, robust grower that blooms in flushes regularly. **Soul Mate** also contains the genes of this species rose.

We have crossed it with **Memoire**, **Pink Parfait**, **Queen Elizabeth**, **Lenny**, **Figurine**, to name a few. We have kept one of the

Memoire crosses, one of the **Pink Parfait** crosses ("Route Parfait"), one of the **Queen Elizabeth** crosses ("Route Queen"), one of the **Lenny** crosses...and if not good enough in their own right, they will make useful breeding on roses. Two of the **Figurine** crosses have been registered, **Jazz Waltz** and **Barbie Girl** (for sale in New Zealand only). That is a fair cross section and if we could not achieve anything from that lot, then perhaps the rose was not worth using. We had decided not to use it further so it has been removed from the garden to make way for the new generation of our own, again a rose we like but did not have the space to keep.



Top left "Route Parfait 1" Top right "Route Parfait 2"
Bottom left "Route Parfait 3" (keeper) Bottom right "Bon66par"

“Route Parfait” gave “Bon66Par” when crossed with Sam McGredy’s **Bonfire Night**. It has also been removed as it proved to be intolerant of the hot weather recently and ended up with scorched foliage, while surrounded by plants whose foliage remained intact. It has however passed on its good points (hopefully) to some of its offspring...the orange centre surrounded by pink made a nice display. The colour was similar to **The Governor’s Wife**, but a smaller plant with not as big a flower and also without fragrance.



Jazz Waltz has not proved to be a good seed parent, but has given some interesting results when used as a pollen parent. Crossing with **New Kleopatra**, gave “Black is Black”, the darkest rose in the garden; crossed with Ruby Treasure, we have “Dancing Ruby”; crossing with **Tiny Red** gave “Fred”, a breeding

rose; crossing with **Lenny** gave WALjenny, of which we think highly enough to send to trial this year; it was also crossed with Allan Read’s **Tiny Tutu** to give a seedling which also seems to be a good breeding rose. In time, it may even prove to have enough good points to merit distribution. For the first time this year we found some open pollinated hips on **Jazz Waltz** (low down) and will plant the seed in the hope of obtaining something more fertile than **Jazz Waltz** itself.



Left – “Black is Black”



Right – “Fred”



Above left – Waljenny Above right – ‘Ruby Treasure’ x ‘Jazz Waltz’
Below – 2 seedlings of (‘Loving Touch’ x ‘Scarlet Mimi’) x ‘Jazz Waltz’



“Route Queen” we have used in some crosses but nothing to get excited about yet. It does have a luminous pink bloom with a hint of the mauve coming through, and healthy foliage. The plant measures up to the standards required of building a good plant and then putting the flower on it. The bloom is not quite there yet.



'Walttwo' (**Barbie Girl**) is a pink and white bicolor well-formed mini (fairly tall) that blooms in clusters. It is still being assessed here but will be marketed in New Zealand where the colour also seems to be more intense.

We also crossed **Memoire** x **Route 66** with **Compassion** and obtained a spreading, low growing plant with

a very decorative centre. We view it mainly as a breeding rose and have been making crosses on it, but nothing of note so far. Our other experimental cross was with **Pat Austin**. While it is unusual, having an unusual red colour with yellow reverse, the growth is a bit over the top to be of commercial value and it does not appear to have much to offer our core objectives in breeding. There is also a promising cross with **Lenny** that we are watching with interest.



Above left – (Memoire x Route 66) x Compassion

Above right – Route 66 x Pat Austin

Left – Route 66 x Lenny

These are only some of the roses we have bred from **Route 66**. It has more potential both as a seed and pollen parent than we have explored, so the ball is in your court and you are limited only by your imagination.

Breeding Hybrid Teas

MODERN ROSES were the classes that started to appear from 1867 with the first rose recognised as a Hybrid Tea released. Its name was **La France**. The term “Hybrid Tea” was a term later adopted for roses created from a cross between Hybrid Perpetual and Tea Roses. Since there is some debate over the actual parentage of **La France**, (the latest version of *Modern Roses* gives it as **Mme Bravy** (T) x **Mme Victor Verdier** (HP), but the previous edition [*MR XI*] does not give any parents and *MR V* gives the parents the other way around, while never substantiated by any records. The breeder, Jean-Baptiste Guillot fils, was of the opinion that it was a **Mme Falcot** (a Tea rose) seedling (with an unknown father). There is therefore some debate about whether or not it was the first HT, but the history books deem it so, and who am I to argue? Hybrid Teas are bush roses which flower predominantly singly throughout the season.



In any case, **La France** was found to be of indifferent fertility (being triploid) but it was the genuine HT **Lady Mary Fitzwilliam** (Bennett 1880, **Devoniensis** (T) x **Victor Verdier** (HP)) through its offspring **Caroline Testout** that became the ancestor of most of our Hybrid Teas.

Most new classes were developed from a “new” species rose. The Hybrid Tea is a combination of at least 6 species roses, *R. gigantea*, *R. chinensis*, *R. multiflora* var *cathayensis*, *R. gallica*, *R. moschata* and *R. fedtschenkoana*. It was as additional species were introduced that a new colour or class of rose came into existence. The early HT's were found in a range of colours from white through pink to red and purple. The colours we have today came from an infusion

of genes mainly from ***R. foetida persiana***, a double form of ***R. foetida lutea***. The pre-1900 roses lacked the strong yellows, oranges, apricots and reds with a yellow base with which we are familiar today.

The patient pioneering work of Joseph Pernet-Ducher (France) gave us the ability to develop these colours with the introduction of the first of a class of roses named after him, the Pernetianas. These were subsequently absorbed into the HT's. He began with many seedlings of a Hybrid Perpetual from



pollen of *R. foetida persiana*, beginning in 1888, and nature then took over to produce a chance seedling from his work which represented such an important and significant breakthrough rose, **Soleil d'Or**, in 1900. Its inclusion in future breeding also led to new fragrances in roses as well as more susceptibility to black spot.

I guess it is debatable whether or not the fragrance we have come to call myrrh is from a *R. fedtschenkoana* or *R. foetida persiana* background.

Now, of course, there are many more Species that have been bred into the modern roses including the HT. I see no point in going back to the Pernetianas and older HT's as they have already been bred into our modern roses. The colours of modern roses are a safe indication of the heritage of the Pernetianas.



There is no doubt that the rose most in demand with the public is the Hybrid Tea. You only have to look at rose catalogues and garden centres when the bagged rose plants come on sale in autumn to verify this. There are more HT's than any other kind, and while members of the rose societies who participate in rose shows do not entirely drive the market, the demand for the classic HT is still there. And I believe the public still wants

these roses. Just show them a photo of some roses with different forms, from single through classic HT to "old fashioned" and they'll pick the classic HT as the one that "looks like a rose". One of my more serious goals is to produce some of these.

We look at publications from America and see the great HT's (plus Minis and Minifloras!) being bred there that would look great on the show bench. Visits

to India and Japan have also confirmed that the classic HT is strongly in vogue there too. Unfortunately our import regulations make it difficult to get some of these great new roses into Australia. We seem to be driven by the European breeders who do not breed for the Australian public because unlike these countries, (and Australia) competitive rose shows do not occur in Europe, where there is no such thing as an “exhibition rose”.

How do we go about breeding one then? Keep in mind that two reds do not necessarily give a red nor do two HT's necessarily produce an HT. There are no simple answers, but you have to start somewhere. My suggestion as always is to aim for diversity, different colours, different shapes, different types, different breeders and countries of origin and hopefully some will be what you want. Use at least one type of the rose you want and one with the colour desired. Next round, strengthen the weaknesses and develop the strengths with appropriate choice of mother or father. Accept good roses whatever the type and build on them. Diversity develops a wider range of possibilities but also builds hybrid vigour.



My first ever bred rose, 'Eddie'. Pollinated in 1981 and registered in 2001. It was originally given a working name of "Samantha Jayne" after my third daughter and was bred from the "red blend" (I thought it was more like bright pink) HT 'Living' and the orange blend Floribunda 'Uwe Seeler'.

Breeding Unusual Colours

I usually advise people when starting breeding roses to use two roses with different backgrounds, different colours, different forms, different breeders, different classes and different countries of origin. This is to obtain the widest possible variety of flower colours and forms, and bush types.

It is easy to breed pink. Almost anything will work. You will have more pink than any other colour, but if you want unusual colours, definitely mix them up. Consider the following:



Lavender Pinocchio – ‘Pinocchio’ x ‘Grey Pearl’, F Boerner 1948. The colour is described as lilac pink with an undertone of cappuccino brown. It was bred from two roses, one salmon pink with yellow shading (in other words, a warm pink, bred from ‘Eva’ (carmen red HMsK) and a yellow HT, ‘Golden Rapture’) and an unusual for the time mauve blend, but with shades of “warm” smoke colour, bred from a combination of yellow, red and pink roses.



Honey Dijon – ‘Stainless Steel’ x ‘Singin’ in the Rain’, Gr Sproul 2003. The colour is described as tan and it was bred from a soft mauve blend HT and a floribunda described as bronzy-brown, coffee-apricot, from a pink and yellow rose.

Julia’s Rose – ‘Blue Moon’ x ‘Dr A. J. Verhage’, HT Tysterman 1976. The colour is described as an unusual colour including cream, caramel and peach. It was bred from two HT’s. one a mauve blend and the other a yellow.





Soul Sister – ‘Blueberry Hill’ x ‘Pot O’Gold’, F Bedard 2008. The colour is described as milky chocolate suffusing to lavender. It is bred from a mauve blend floribunda and a yellow HT.

Hot Cocoa – (‘Playboy’ x ‘Altissimo’) x ‘Livin’ Easy’, F Carruth 2003. The colour is described as russet, with a darker reverse, suffused with mauve shades as it ages. It was bred from two floribundas and a climber in shades of yellow, orange and red.



Edith Holden – ‘Belinda’ (HMSk) x [‘Elizabeth of Glamis’ x ‘Galway Bay’ x ‘Suttors Gold’], F (shrub) Warner 1988. It is another one of those roses which is orange fresh open, but takes on lavender tones as the blooms age, a little in the same way ‘Hot Cocoa’ does. It would fit the description “patio climber” if there was such a classification. It was bred from a blend of pink, coral salmon, yellow and orange.

Nola Simpson’s **Hot Chocolate** etc, John Ford – ‘Princesse’ x (‘Tane’ x ‘Mary Sumner’), F Simpson 1988. ‘Hot Chocolate’ is described as orange red with brown overtones. It was bred from a mix of russet, mahogany orange and brown. Nola specialised in the unusual colours and her nephew, John Ford, has continued the work.

Sam McGredy and **Colorbreak** also known as ‘Brown Velvet’ – ‘Mary Sumner’ x ‘Kapai’, F McGredy 1982. Its colour is described as russet, orange tinged brownish, reddish brown, bred from two orange roses... Sam advised breeders seeking milk chocolate coloured roses to use ‘Mary Sumner’. We grew it for a while and had an acceptable floribunda bred from it with ‘Fragrant Cloud’, but no brown or tan roses eventuated, so we removed it as it was not very productive. He very generously described Nola Simpson’s ‘Hot Chocolate’ as his favourite russet-coloured rose.

Dusky Moon, the intention – Pat Austin x Blue for You, S, Walsh 2016. It is hard to think what I was trying to achieve back then. From the cross, I would think orange plus mauve would have been looking for brown or tan with



lavender shades, but we got purple and white...that was not expected but it turned out to be a good result anyway.

“Opium” (**Bush Blaze** x **Blue for You**), is a smoky mauve single bloom with a yellow base and lovely prominent stamens. We would love to use its unusual colours to go a step further but have not been successful yet. It also has a sibling we call Walskit, which is about to get the chop because it is of climbing proportions, nasty

prickles and just does not bloom often enough...it's positives are changing colour and fragrance. It opens creamy yellow and ages pink and has quite acceptable fragrance. We do have some seedlings coming up from it this year, so hopefully the genes will not be wasted.



“Bush Pat” (**Bush Blaze** x **Pat Austin**) was one of the unexpected ones. Both parents are in the orange tones, so the intention was obviously to tap into the colour, but looking at the qualities of the parents to see what else could be combined. One of the many things we like about Pat Austin is its repeat booming. It is almost like a Tea Rose, and often when it comes to pruning time, we have had to leave it because it is covered with new growth and



blooms. The difference with this one (and I need to investigate the family tree to explain it) is the fact that the orange blooms age with purplish tones.



Blue for You x Soft Merlot gave an interesting blend of purplish reds and yellow. I would love to bud it and see how it goes on an understock, but still early times with it.

“BPC” ([Blue for You x Golden Flash] x China Sunrise) opens a reddish orange with wavy petals and a yellow base and darkens with purplish tones as it ages. The foliage is brilliant and worth breeding on with.



My advice as always, mix up the colours and your dreams may come true or the unexpected may happen. Research your parents and even grandparents for potential. Take a risk and do the things that may lead to unexpected results and hopefully successes.

Breeding Line – Pimovi

One of my early roses that I developed breeding lines with was **Pimprenelle**. Ruth will say “that’s where I went wrong”, but I disagree. It is a bright yellow, but fades, it has lovely glossy foliage, but is prone to black spot. There were two lines, one found by crossing it with **Marilyn Monroe** and the other with ‘DELmovi’. Interestingly, some of the roses that came through both breeding lines neither faded nor showed the lack of resistance for black spot.

The ‘DELmovi’ line gave me three (or more actually) seedlings, ‘Walpimovione’ registered as **Golden Flash**, a spreading shrub with glossy

light green foliage and golden blooms mainly in clusters with splashes of orange. It is constantly in bloom and grows about 1 metre tall and almost 2 m wide. While it seems to set seed readily we are still waiting for the “big” one bred from it...perhaps “Flasher” (MinFI, Golden Flash x Ruby Treasure) is it, but the jury is still out on this fairly recent one.



The second, “Walpimovitwo”, which has been removed was a pink and yellow blend and much more compact, but had a weaker constitution, so was eventually removed...not however before it had donated its genes to some other crosses. It was by far the most productive

from the breeding point of view. Again, the best cross from it was with **Summer Queen**, giving us “Pimovi Queen” and it in turn crossed with several



others has produced some interesting seedlings still being assessed.



The third, 'Walpimovithree', now registered as **Impulsive**, has been marketed in the Southern Highlands where the larger shrubby roses seem to suit the gardens. It is a very drought resistant, glossy-foliaged shrub, with large single orange blend blooms, which seems to sucker its way around the garden. I have not yet tapped into its genes, but every flower forms a hip. It is low growing and spreads its way around the area in which it is planted (if on its own roots).



Propagating Roses – Chip Budding

For those who find cuttings unsuccessful especially with some varieties, budding (bud-grafting) may be an alternative. There are two main kinds, T-budding and chip budding. I will focus on chip budding in this issue. Budding means using the more vigorous understock plants (called “briars”) for the root system (they are usually easy to propagate from cuttings) and allowing it to be the host for the often hard-to-propagate-by-cuttings varieties (in particular, those with pithy centres in their stems).

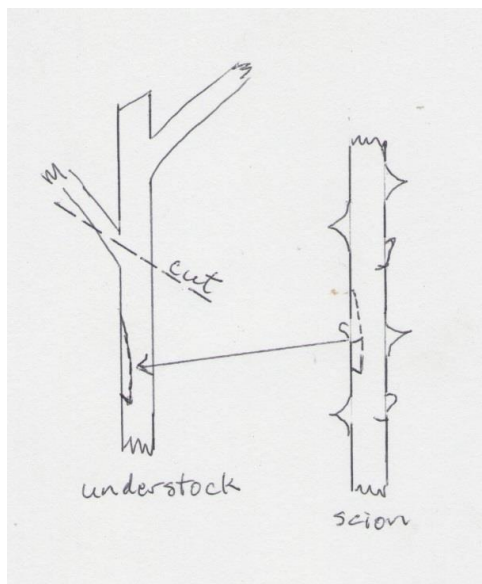
To start with, you need an understock growing on its own roots (so you can’t avoid propagation by cuttings either way). The preferred understocks seem to be **Multiflora** (eastern states), **Dr Huey** in South Australia (more tolerant of alkaline conditions – and tolerant does not imply does its best) and **Fortuneana** in Western Australia (more suitable for their sandy soils).



I take 20cm long cuttings (square below an eye and angled as a pruning cut above) preferably during spring and autumn. All but the top 2 eyes are removed. They are then wrapped in damp (not wet) newspaper sprayed with fungicide and sealed in plastic in a cool, dark area for about 2 weeks. During this time the cuttings will callous. They

can be planted in a sandy mixture (in pots or open ground) and kept damp...pots will allow you to work at a more comfortable height, without bending.

When the understocks are growing well, they are ready to bud. T-budding is best done in the warm summer months with the sap flowing freely (December through to February is ideal). Chip budding can be done here 365 days of the year and with older understocks. The union between the bud graft (scion) and understock seems stronger with T-budding. It is always better when the scion and understock are approximately the same thickness (ideally about pencil thickness). The union is strongest if the cambium layers (the area between bark and wood) are together around both understock and shield shaped slice of the scion.



A shield shaped section is sliced below the bud on the scion (just-flowered stems make the best material for grafting and the third and fourth eyes down from the spent bloom are usually the best) and placed on the same shaped cut on the understock, made with a Stanley-type knife, gem razor blade or budding knife, as in the diagram. The whole piece is then wrapped with plastic (budding) tape or patches can be used. The eye may either be covered or left uncovered...I favour the former. I leave the ties on for about 8 weeks before they are removed. The top of the plant may then be cut back through the lower (see diagram) growth eye of the understock to

force the new bud to start growing. Pinch out any shoots that emerge from the cut-back and eventually as the new bud develops on the growing graft, this top may be removed to a little above the budded shoot.



Be patient and nip off any buds (before they open as the weight may cause you to lose the graft) that start to form until the plant is well established. This forces faster branching and new shoots from the base to develop the plant. Make sure the new stem is well supported.

I have seen budding practice being performed on other established plants when understocks are not available...on a stem somewhere reasonably low-down on a fairly strong, young growth. It could produce a "double budded" effect with two varieties growing on one plant. I have even used suckers on existing plants to bud the variety of the main plant low on the sucker. It is almost like another

watershoot and does not seem to produce too many additional suckers. If you run out of understocks, you can bud directly onto the mother plant (understock) and take the cutting at a more suitable time with a lower rate of success.

Could Have Been, Should Have Been Roses Before Their Time



I bought and planted my first 6 roses in the late 60's. One of them was the well-known (at the time) **Buccaneer**. I know we have all been schooled to believe that **Queen Elizabeth** was the first of the Grandiflora class...almost true, kind-of correct...but if you check the MR database, you will find **Buccaneer** was Gr, 1952 and **Queen Elizabeth** was Gr, 1954.

Armstrongs nursery in the US submitted a seedling of Herb Swim's for the AARS trial bred from ('Captain Thomas' x 'Max Krause') x 'Golden Rapture' (the MR database gives the cross the other way around to this record in Herb's book. Herb writes: "at the end of the trial period it was in first place in the Hybrid Tea Class where I felt it most appropriate." However, the trustees

overturned the decision on review "because it was not a Hybrid Tea."
Chrysler Imperial, second placed, was awarded accordingly.

Two years later a similar classification objection came up concerning another rose. Dr Lammerts entered his seedling (**Queen Elizabeth**) of 'Charlotte Armstrong' x 'Floradora' as a Floribunda. Again, there were problems resulting from the fact that according to the debate at the time, this rose had been entered in the wrong class. The consensus was that it was an outstanding rose and should receive an AARS award, but that it should be placed in a special class. The committee was charged with the task of recommending a name for the new class and defining its specifications. As a committee member, Herb Swim was asked to do it and came up with the name Grandiflora, which carried as part of its description "a tall plant with flowers in Floribunda-like profusion but with more flowers with individual stems of cutable length in the clusters."

Interestingly, the earlier **Buccaneer** was also seen to fit the criteria, so although **Queen Elizabeth** was the first designated Grandiflora, **Buccaneer** was recognised as one too although bred two years earlier.



Perhaps we have an example of an Australian Bred rose with a similar story. Andrew Ross reports that in its first year in the NRTGA (National Rose Trial Garden of Australia), **Joyce Abounding** scored highly, but had been entered as a Miniature since there was no category for Miniflora at the time. It failed in the second year because it did not meet the criteria for Miniatures. Now we can enter Minifloras.



At least when **Amelia** (later marketed as **100 Not Out** for the RSNSW Centenary) also did well in the first year as far as scores were concerned. I was advised that my classification of HT was wrong and that it bloomed predominantly in clusters in Adelaide which would cause it to be marked down in the second year unless I changed the classification; I

was happy to change to Floribunda even though for me it flowered more singly than in clusters. It went on to win a Bronze Medal and best Australia Bred for that year and I promptly registered it as Grandiflora. At that time there was no category for Gr in the trial garden.

I also recollect that my variety **Springshow** also did not do all that well but remains bullet-proof here. I entered it as a Floribunda (on Multiflora) but in retrospect, probably should have entered it as a Shrub. It thrives on neglect. I wonder how many other roses have fallen by the wayside for incorrect classification or for the correct classification not being available. How important then is it to have the correct classification, or in reality, should

classification not even enter into the argument...should they just all be "Roses"...roses for cutting, roses for smelling, roses for exhibiting, roses for tolerating heat and drought etc? However, if I call a rose a HT, etc, am I under an obligation to meet certain expectations?



I would invite members to also submit their thoughts on some of these sticky classification issues. We have some roses that with respect to Miniature have small foliage and the blooms are consistent with miniature, but they are more shrub-like in growth. Does a climbing Miniature or Patio (Miniflora) climber enter trials as a climber or a Miniature or

Miniflora? Thoughts please.

NSW Trial Garden

It was great news for Australia and Australian breeders when the first rose trial garden in Australia was established and the first trials in the National Rose Trial Garden of Australia (Adelaide) were conducted in the first trial years 1996-1998.

Since then a trial garden, The Queensland Rose Trial Gardens in Newtown Park, Toowoomba has also been established and it reflects the conditions on the East Coast better. However, I have always believed we need a trial garden in every state and they all need national support and recognition.

I am excited to announce that at its May 2018 meeting, the State Council of the Rose Society of NSW formed a steering committee to investigate the formation of a trial garden in NSW that will give Australian bred roses priority. I am hoping our members will be involved in the formation of the trial garden and those particularly who breed roses will support it.

The Chair of the committee is Veronica O'Brien, with her wealth of experience at Werribee and in leadership in the Rose Society of Victoria. We will be looking for input from our members into the way the trials are conducted and invite your feedback. As we continue our journey, we will keep you informed and invite your expressions of interest.